GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:66
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2010
AIRCRAFT CRASH AT MANGALORE AIRPORT
Singh Shri Radha Mohan;Singh Smt. Meena

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Air India Express aircraft crashed at Mangalore airport recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of casualties occurred;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether compensation has been paid to the families of the victims of the crash;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such accidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) to (g):- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the parts (a) to (g) of the Lok Sabha Starred () Question No.66 for 29-07-2010 regarding `Aircraft Crash at Mangalore Airport`.

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. Air India Express Boeing 737 - 800 aircraft VT - AXV met with an accident at Mangalore on 22-05-2010 while operating scheduled flight IX - 812 from Dubai to Mangalore. 158 persons including 6 crew members had lost their lives. 8 adults were injured but survived.

(c) and (d): The accident is under investigation by a Court of Inquiry constituted by the Government in exercise of the powers conferred by the Rule 75 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

(e) and (f): The following interim compensation had been fixed:- (a) Rs. 10 lakhs for each adult deceased passenger; (b) Rs.5 lakhs for each passenger below the age of 12 and (c) Rs.2 lakhs for each injured passenger. As of date the interim compensation has been paid to 127 out of 128 adult passengers who have lost their lives and to all 20 children, 4 infants and 8 injured passengers. One passenger whose family members are in Dubai, due to unavoidable circumstances could not travel to India to claim interim compensation. Arrangements are being made to settle the claim in Dubai itself. Also interim compensation to 5 out 6 crew have been disbursed. In the case of the Commander Capt. Glucica, whose family is in Belgrade, NACIL is in the process of distributing the interim compensation. An amount of Rs.14.56 crores has been disbursed towards the above till date.

(g): Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Operations Circular 12 of 2010 on 01-06-2010 impressing upon all Scheduled/Non - Scheduled/ General Aviation Operators to strictly adhere to the standard operating procedures for approaching and landing that would result in decent landing acceptable within the limitations of aircraft without compromising stopping distance requirements. Also, Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC)has been set up in the DGCA under the Chairmanship of Director General of Civil Aviation with 28 expert members from industry who have made significant contribution. The Council has constituted 4 different working groups for(i) Operations, (ii) Airworthiness,(iii) Air Navigation and(iv) Aerodromes. Further, safety recommendations emanating from investigation of incidents are followed up for implementation with the concerned agencies for preventing recurrence of such incidents in future. To avoid air accidents, various accident prevention programmes have been initiated by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which include safety audits, surveillance inspections, dissemination of safety information, issue of Air Safety Circular/ Civil Aviation Requirements, etc.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of United States of America had carried out an audit in 2009 to review DGCA`s safety oversight capabilities. The FAA made some recommendations for their improvement. The steps taken by DGCA in this regard have been appreciated by FAA as there had been significant improvement in several areas of DGCA in a short span of time, which included creation of an additional 427 Group `A` posts in DGCA in order to strengthen the safety oversight set - up in DGCA.